



Howrey Docket No.: 02453.0021.NPUS00

Client Ref. No.: P109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/773,487 Confirmation No.: 6629  
Applicant : Merchant *et al.*  
Filed : February 6, 2004  
TC/A.U. : 2155  
Examiner : Eng, David  
Docket No. : 02453.0021.NPUS00  
Customer No. : 27194 Date: July 13, 2006

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

***Mail Stop Amendment***

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed March 23, 2006, having a shortened-  
statutory response period with extensions, extending through and including July 23, 2006,  
kindly amend the above captioned application as follows. **All amendments and  
remarks herein are made without prejudice.**

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached hereto) is being deposited with  
the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an  
envelope addressed to *Mail Stop Amendment*, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  
22313-1450.

July 13, 2006  
Date of Deposit

Joan M. Gordon  
Name of Person Mailing Paper

  
Signature of Person Mailing Paper